(d) the number of projects completed, so far?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRIANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of towns/projects sanctioned under the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) scheme during the last three years is as under:

Year	No of Towns
1999-2000	60
2000-2001	53
2001-2002	114

(c) The Central assistance released during the last three years is as under (Rs. in lakhs)

YEAR	Central Assistance Released
1999-2000	4346.00
2000-2001	5617.00
2001-2002	7570.90

(d) The projects approved during the last three years are at various stages of implementation, as these are expected to be completed within 5 years from the year of sanction.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Cement factory in Manipur

2646. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lime stone deposits are available to start an economically viable cement factory in Manipur;

(b) if so, the quantity of the deposit and also the quality of the lime stone;

(c) whether the State Government has proposed a 200 M.T. capacity per day cement factory in the State; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRIARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) According to the information available with the Indian Bureau of Mines, lime stone reserves as on 1.4.1995 in the State of Manipur were estimated at 14785 thousand tonnes, mostly of Cement Grade. Of these, proven reserves were 472 thousand tonnes; the rest were in the category of probable/possible reserves. However, viability of setting up of a downstream unit based on minerals available in any region depends on a number of factors like infrastructure support and not only on the availability of the minerals involved.

(c) and (d) The Government of Manipur has submitted a proposal to the North Eastern Council (NEC) for preparing a Techno-economic Feasibility Report for relocation of Hundung Cement Plant and for expanding its capacity to 200 TPD. NEC is examining the proposal.

Development of NER

2647. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for the Development of North Eastern Region after the formation of the Ministry;

(b) whether projects have been sanctioned for different States of the Region; and

(c) if so, what are those?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Department of Development of North Eastern Region was created in September, 2001 primarily with the objective of accelerating the pace of socio-economic development of the region. The major thrust areas of the Department for economic development of North East consists of improving the infrastructure; providing greater access to basic social services like education, health, drinking water and sanitation etc.; expanding economic and social opportunities for all; building capacities aimed at increased efficiency;